

Groundwater Committee (GWC)
Nov. 21, 2002 GWC Meeting Minutes

Please note: Action items designated by **BOLD** text.

1:15 PM – Opening comments by Alec Naugle.

Alec stated that the primary purpose of the GWC meeting was to review the necessary steps for the finalization of the SoBay Report. Stakeholder comments on the draft SBR were received between 12/01 and 4/02. In general, stakeholder (i.e., SCVWD, SMCo, ACWD, and a couple of regional board staff) comments were generally positive/supportive. Some comments chided us for not doing more – taking the report to the next level (i.e., implementing the recommendations contained in the report).

GWC goal is to produce a draft final document by mid to late January 2003.

- Back in July 2002, the GWC met to discuss stakeholder comments and formulate responses. It was decided that responses to stakeholder comments would be included as Appendix I of the final SoBay. Responses to comments still need to be completed. Alec is soliciting for help.
- Stephen Hill suggested that, for consistency, Greg Bartow be included in finalizing the SoBay report.
- David Elias pointed out that there is a footnoting problem with the draft.
 - Alec's introductory vu-graph outlined the "Next Steps" that are required to finalize the SoBay report. Required report finalization actions include:
 - **Complete responses to comments;**
 - **Revise text, tables, and figures;**
 - **Complete appendices;**
 - **Re-distribute final draft;**
 - **Send responses to comments to stakeholders;**
 - **Review footnotes and general text for consistency and flow;**
 - **Place final report on website – electronic; and,**
 - **Submit final report to stakeholders.**
 - Stephen Hill – stated that we need a "fall back" plan for finalization of SoBay report due to limited staff resources. There is a need to move quickly because the data contained in the report will "age." Is it possible to shorten the time for public review? Extending the review window may open the door for more comments.

- Mary Rose – questioned whether it would be better to say something to the effect that the comments were worked in to the final report, etc. Substantial changes will be fixed in future revisions.

Looking for Volunteers to finalize the report ASAP (i.e., avoid data aging).

- David Elias to do a final technical read, QA/QC of report
- Mary Rose to help with “gross error review.”
- Stephen Hill suggested that a list be generated as to who is accountable for each section of the draft SoBay report. This action was discussed during the July 2002 meeting. Alec stated that the accountability sheet currently exists and that he would both resurrect/ circulate it to the GWC.
- More volunteers required.
- Sarah questioned whether there were any available funds for editing the draft.
Alec to check with Bartow on the availability of funding.

Focus Areas

- Vertical conduits (identification and sealing) – Chuck Headlee (responsible staff)
- Leaking sewer lines – needs clarification - Nancy Katyl (responsible staff)
- Electronic reporting – pilot program
- Coordination with DHS SWSAP program – parallel effort at State Board, DHS data is off limits to general public, etc. – Sarah Raker (responsible staff).
Public supply wells under the jurisdiction of the State – does not apply to private water wells, etc. **Chuck Headlee to check with legal regarding well surveys that are included in reports submitted to the Board.**
- GW-surface water interaction – no specific comments received - Julie Menack (responsible staff)
- GW protection language in City General Plans – Sarah Raker (responsible staff)
- General comment - **Revise the executive summary of the SoBay report to make the purpose of the report more clear and to emphasize that a goal of the report is to share information. Current draft does not touch on ambient water quality.**

General discussion on deficiencies of the draft SoBay Report

- DHS Public Supply Well Privacy Letter - How does the SoBay Report comply with DHS Privacy letter? **(Three collaborators on SoBay Report have signed the DHS privacy letter – must get opinion from legal).**
- Tom Mohr – led general discussion on unregulated contaminant monitoring requirements (UCMR). DHS is collecting good data that is not being shared. How are we doing with our South Bay cleanup? Are groundwater supply wells being contaminated? With regard to the SoBay draft, Tom suggests that the report be reframed to better describe where there is protection and

where there needs to be more done. **Can existing information in the report be brought forward to emphasize these points?**

- ____ Smith – led a general discussion on backyard irrigation wells that are located in San Mateo County. Some residences might use water to fill pools, etc. It was fashionable in new home construction during the late 1940s and 1950s to install shallow (15' to 20' deep) backyard, irrigation wells. Backyard irrigation wells have been found/documented through door-to-door surveys.
- NRDC Report (?)
- Sarah suggested the draft report make mention of AB599 rule – current version of the report was drafted prior to AB599. **Sarah to write a paragraph on GAMMA (low level VOC monitoring).**

Keith Roberson – Led discussion on Phase II Reporting. The plan is to move from Phase I (pilot) to Phase II (implementation of Phase I). Phase I requested electronic data submittals from dischargers (i.e., solvent plumes in South Bay). Data submitted included plume shape files and data as discussed in Section 7.3 of the draft SoBay report.

- General discussion – Expand Phase II to all of Region 2
- Why limit to solvent plumes? Expand to include HC plumes (note: HC plumes are being tracked in GeoTracker).
- Ask discharger for information on multiple plumes.
- Make Phase II web-based and compatible with GeoTracker.

Jeff Kapellas – Led presentation/discussion on Phase II computer demonstration. Jeff requested that a technical advisory committee (TSC) for plume mapping program be formed. Current volunteers to aid Jeff include Tom Mohr and Mary Rose.

Jeff's Phase II program allows for:

- Update of the database
- Monitoring various contaminants of concern in various aquifers
- Building a site history (through database uploads).

The Phase II program needs to be approved. Main bugs worked out.